

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ
KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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The Hindu

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7/11/20

SC relief for Arnab in breach of privilege case

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, asked the Secretary to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt for "threatening" Mr. Goswami with a "penalty" just because the journalist had approached the top court.

In an October 13 letter, the Assembly official accused Mr. Goswami of "knowingly" breaching the confidentiality of the privilege proceedings by moving the top court without taking the permission of the Speaker. Mr. Goswami is accused of breach of privilege for using "sharp language" against the Maharashtra Chief Minister.

"He [Goswami] is in jail... He is being threatened, questioned... Case after case after case is being filed against this man. At times, constitutional courts have to see the reality and not just the smokescreen... He has been warned... They have said he will spend Diwali in jail," senior advocate Harish Salve, for Mr. Goswami, submitted.

Referring to letter, the

Chief Justice said the Secretary's statements were a "serious interference in the administration of justice". "How dare he [Secretary] do this? Who is this official? How can he threaten a person from coming to this court?"

It's the right of every citizen to move the Supreme Court to protect his fundamental rights, the CJI said.

The court said the statements made in the Secretary's letter were "unprecedented" and had a "tendency to bring the administration of justice into disrepute and, in any case, amount to a direct interference in the administration of justice".

The Bench, in its order summoning the Assembly Secretary, said "the intention of the author of the letter seems to be to intimidate the petitioner [Goswami] because he had approached this court".

The court appointed senior advocate Arvind Datar as *amicus curiae* in the *suo motu* contempt proceedings.